

Message Text

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GENEVA PASS AMBASSADOR CARTER

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SUBJECT: LIBERIAN NATIONAL DAY CEREMONIES

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT TOLBERT, IN HIS SPEECH AT JULY 26 INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES, REITERATED LIBERIAN POSITIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY. SPEECH INCLUDED INDIRECT CRITICISM OF U.S. VETO OF ANGOLAN MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS, BUT WAS DONE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO OFFEND NO ONE. ALTHOUGH GUINEAN DELEGATION, LED BY PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI, HEADED LIST OF FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS AT THE CEREMONIES, LIBERIA'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH IVORY COAST WERE CAREFULLY UNDERSCORED THROUGHOUT THE DAY. PRESIDENT FORD'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE WAS SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION AS WERE SEVERAL INDIVIDUAL AMERICANS AND FIRESTONE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT TOLBERT USED OCCASION OF JULY 26 INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES TO SUMMARIZE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION, AND TO CALL FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNITY; FOR PROGRESS

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IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND PROGRESS IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

TOLBERT REITERATED LIBERIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AND COMMENDED FIRESTONE FOR THE NEW CONCESSION AGREEMENT. USING AS A THEME THE NEED FOR "RESPECTABILITY AMONG PEOPLES, MUTUAL RESPECT AMONG NATIONS, BENEFICIAL COOPERATION AMONG PARTNERS, AND UNIVERSAL ALERTNESS, "PRESIDENT TOLBERT CALLED FOR LIBERIANS TO REMEMBER THEIR HERITAGE AND REMAIN " A COHESIVE FORCE UPON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, ESPOUSING PRODUCTIVE COOPERATION AND COMPROMISE, AND A COHERENT VOICE IN THIS OUR ONE WORLD." RELEVANT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPEECH FOLLOW:

3. SOUTHERN AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST. " COUNTRIES LIKE OUR OWN MUST REMAIN EVER SHARP IN PRECEIVING IN OUR ONE WORLD THE DANGERS OF INCREASING PROVOCATIONS AND STRIFE, OF PROTRACTED CONTROVERSIES AND INTENSIFYING CONFLICTS.

IN THE RECENT PAST, ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE, UNFORTUANTELY, HAS UNDERGONE THE SURPRISING EXPERIENCE OF BEING REJECTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE DEPLORABLE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONTINUES TO REMAIN DISASTROUS AND AFFECTED BY STUBBORN DIMENSIONS OF ESCALATING DEVASTATION. RACIAL EXPLOSIONS ERUPT IN SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF.

THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AGAINST UNYIELDING ILLEGAL REGIMES AND AGAINST THE PERNICIOUS SYSTEMS OF APARTHEID AND HUMAN DIGNITY DENIED, HAS CULMINATED INTO OPEN CONFRONTATION, NURTURING THE CONCENTRATED POTENTIAL FOR ENCIRCLING INCALCULABLE DESTRUCTION. AND THE RECENT DEBATES IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL REGARDING NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WITH ALL ITS EMOTIVE OVERBONES OF ETHNIC BONDS AND RACIAL LINKS, REMIND US, IN OUR TIMES, OF THE SERIOUS RAMIFICATIONS OF INTRACTABLE, LOCALIZED CONFLICTS WHOSE MORBID FIRES CAN BY ACCIDENT OR PURPOSE BE BLENDED, EVEN ACROSS CONTINENTS. ...

WHEN UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF STATE, DR. HENRY KISSINGER, VISITED LIBERIA THIS YEAR AS PART OF HIS AFRICAN TOUR, WE AGAIN ARTICULATED OUR VIEWS ON THE SHARP CONTRASTS IN TODAY'S WORLD BETWEEN THOSE WHO ALREADY ENJOY LIBERTY, AND THOSE WHOSE FREEDOMS ARE DISTRESSFULLY DENIED. WE ALSO REFLECTED YPON THE GRAVITY OF PERSISTENT AGE-OD HUMAN OPPRESSIONS, AND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE COLOSSAL BANKRUPTCY OF THE VOICES OF REASON.

ANTICIPATING THAT HIS THOUGHTFUL PRONOUNCMEENTS WOULD BEAR FRUITFUL INITIATIVES, WE URGED THAT REBEL LEADERS AS WELL AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STUBBORN OPPRESSORS IN SOUTH AFRICA BE TOLD IN ARTICULATELY CLEAR, UNEQUIVOCAL MANNER, THAT THE PEOPLES OF ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA MUST, WITHOUT FURTHER DELAYS, BE GIVEN TOTAL LIBERATION. I EMPHASIZED THAT THEY MUST BE TOLD THAT AN END MUST BE BROUGHT TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS' OBNOXIOUS POLICIES AND DIABOLICAL OPPRESSION IN ALL FORMS AGAINST OUR AFRICAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS, YEA, CHILDREN OF OUR COMMON FATHR, WHO ARE ENTITLED TO ENJOY HUMAN DIGNITY, PEACE AND PROSPERITY, IN COMMON WITH ALL OF GOD'S

CHILDREN INHABITING OUR ONE WORLD."

4. NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. "FROM THE SIXTH AND SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSIONS IN NEW YORK INTO THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE-ROOMS OF THE CONFERENCES OF PARIS AND NAIROBI, THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE ON ISSUES OF ORDERLY COMMODITY MARKETS, ESTABLISHED FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS, MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP, AND AN INCREASED TRANSFER OF REAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MOVED ALMOST FULL CIRCLE FROM CONFLICT TO COMPROMISE; THENCE TO ANXIOUS DEADLOCK, EITHER FAILING TO RESOLVE SOME CRITICAL PROBLEMS OR ACTING TO EVOLVE CERTAIN PRINCIPLES WHOSE IMPLEMENTATION SEEMS EITHER ELUSIVE OR UNTIMELY."

5. FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. " DURING OUR RECENT VISIT TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, WE REITERATED OUR IDENTIFICATION BY SOVEREIGN CHOICE WITH THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, NOT SO MUCH BECAUSE IT IS A PERFECT ONE, BUT PRECISELY BECAUSE ITS APPARENT IMPERFECTIONS ALLOW FOR ADJUSTMENT AND MANAGEABILITY. WE EMPHASIZED OUR FIRM COMMITMENT TO MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS, BASED ON APPROPRIATE BARGAINING, NOT ARBITRARY ACTION, IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL RESPECT, WHEREBY INVESTMENT AND TRADE CAN BE EXPANDED AND DIVERSIFIED, PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVED, AND PROSPERITY AND HUMAN WELLBEING ENHANCED. THESE POLICIES WE ARE DETERMINED TO EXECUTE CONSISTENTLY AND UNRELENTINGLY, IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE THE MOMENTUM FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR THIS NATION."

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ACTION AF-08

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6. FIRESTONE. "THIS YEAR AN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED BY GOVERNMENT AND THE FIRESTONE PLANTATIONS COMPANY, LEADING TO THE REVISION OF THE AMENDED AGREEMENT OF 1926 IS EXEMPLARY OF PRODUCTIVE PARTNERSHIP, BASED ON MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND GOODWILL; AND I COMMEND THE MANAGEMENT OF THAT COMPANY FOR THE ROLE THEY ARE PLAYING IN THE LIFE OF OUR COUNTRY, DURING FIFTY YEARS OF PROSPEROUS ACTIVITY IN A CONDUCTIVELY PEACEFUL AND HARMONIOUS ENVIRONMENT."

7. NATIONAL UNITY. " WE DISGRACE OUR HERITAGE WHEN WE BRASENLY UNDERMINE OUR UNIFICATION AND INTEGRATION POLICY, DESIGNED TO WEAVE US ALL INTO A NATIONAL FABRIC OF HARMONIOUS PURPOSE AND PROGRESS. WE DISHONOR OUR COUNTRY WHEN WE PREACH OR PRACTICE THE DOCTRINE OF SEPARATION, SECTIONALISM OR TRIBALISM. AND IT IS, OUR FRIENDS, A HIDEOUS AND INVIDIOUS CRIME FOR REPUGNANT FORCES, WHETHER WITHIN OR WITHOUT OUR BORDERS, TO ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE THE INDOMITABLE PEOPLE OF THIS LAND.

RAHTER THAN PREOCCUPATION WITH TRIBAL GROUPINGS, LIBERIAN CITIZENS MUST CONCENTRATE ON VIGOROUS COLLECTIVE EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THIS BLESSED COUNTRY. RATHER THAN COUNTENANCE INDIVIDUAL ISOLATION ON ETHNIC GROUNDS, LIBERIAN CITIZENS

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MUST ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION ON GROUNDS OF NATIONAL PRIDE, EACH ONE MAKING RICH AND TIMELY DEPOSITS TO THE NATION'S CREDIT."

8. AT DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION FOLLOWING CEREMONIES FOREIGN MINISTER C. CECIL DENNIS READ TEXT OF ONLY TWO CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES -- PRESIDENT FORD'S (WHICH WAS READ FIRST) AND NIGERIA'S OBASANJO'S. ACCORDING TO A GOL OFFICIAL PRIORITY GIVEN PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE WAS A DELIBERATE ACTION ON PART OF GOL. SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO OBASANJO'S MESSAGE MAY HAVE BEEN PART OF AN EFFORT TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR DENNIS' JULY 28 TRIP TO LAGOS.

9. HEADING LIST OF FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS IN INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES WAS A GUINEAN DELEGATION LED BY PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI. OTHER MEMBERS INCLUDED JEANNE MARTIN, MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS; N'FALLY SANGARE, MINISTER OF BANKS AND INSURANCE; AND AMBASSADOR ALY BANGOURA, STTE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL. MINISTERS MARTIN AND SANGARE WERE DECORATED AS MEMBERS TO THE HUMANE ORDER OF AFRICAN REDEMPTION.

10. AMONG OTHER FOREIGN GUESTS SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION BY PRESIDENT TOLBERT WEE W.W. MITCHELL, MEMBER OF BOARD

OF DIRECTORS OF GETTY OIL COMPANY; SIEGLINDE SCHAUENBERG, FINANCIAL AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE STAHLBAU SCHAUENBERT COMPANY (WEST GERMANY); EUGEN PLOTZSKI, FORMER PRESIDENT OF BONG MINING COMPANY; L. EDGAR DETWILER, COLORFUL AMERICAN PROMOTER WHO STARTED LAMCO AND LATER FOUNDED LISCO WHICH HOLDS CONCESSION ON WOLOGISI IRON ORE DEPOSIT; AND ERLING ODDSTAD, PRESIDENT OF THE SWEDISH BATIST UNION. BOTH MITCHELL AND ODDESTAD WERE ADMITTED INTO THE HUMANE ORDER OF AFRICAN REDEMPTION.

11. AN IVORY COAST FRIGATE WAS IN MONROVIA DURING THE INDEPENDENCE DAY PERIOD AND ITS COMMANDING OFFICER LT. JEAN GNAGRA DAKOURY WAS ADMITTED INTO THE ORDER OF THE STAR OF AFRICA. LIBERIA'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH IVORY COAST AND WITH HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY WERE CAREFULLY UNDERSCORED THROUGHOUT THE DAY IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE GOL EFFORT TO SIGNAL TO THE GOIC THAT BEAVOGUI'S PRESENCE DID NOT IMPLY LIBERIAN ACCEPTANCE OF TOURE'S CURRENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY.
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